

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 295

Introduced by Assembly Member Ammiano

February 17, 2009

An act to amend Sections 18250, 18251, 18253, 18253.5, 18254, 18255, 18256, and 18256.5 of, and to amend the heading of Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 18250) of Part 6 of Division 9 of, the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to public social services.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 295, as introduced, Ammiano. Children: wrap-around services.

Under existing law, the State Department of Social Services administers a pilot project that authorizes a county to develop and implement a plan for providing wrap-around services designed to enable children who would otherwise be placed in a group home setting to remain in the least restrictive, most family-like setting possible. The pilot project also imposes specified evaluation and reporting requirements for participating counties, and training requirements for staff in participating counties.

This bill would remove the designation of this program as a pilot project and make conforming changes.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. The heading of Chapter 4 (commencing with
- 2 Section 18250) of Part 6 of Division 9 of the Welfare and
- 3 Institutions Code is amended to read:

1 CHAPTER 4. COUNTY WRAP-AROUND SERVICES ~~PILOT PROJECT~~
2 PROGRAM

3
4 SEC. 2. Section 18250 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is
5 amended to read:

6 18250. (a) It is the intent of the Legislature that all counties
7 be authorized to provide children with service alternatives to group
8 home care through the development of expanded family-based
9 services programs. These programs shall include individualized
10 or “wrap-around” services, where services are wrapped around a
11 child living with his or her birth parent, relative, adoptive parent,
12 licensed or certified foster parent, or guardian. The wrap-around
13 services developed under this section shall build on the strengths
14 of each eligible child and family and be tailored to address their
15 unique and changing needs.

16 (b) It is further the intent of the Legislature that the ~~pilot project~~
17 *child wrap-around services program* include the following
18 elements:

19 (1) Making available to the county the state share of nonfederal
20 reimbursement for group home placement, minus the state share,
21 if any, of any concurrent out-of-home placement costs, for children
22 eligible under this chapter, for the purpose of allowing the county
23 to develop family-based service alternatives.

24 (2) Enabling the county to access all possible sources of federal
25 funds for the purpose of developing family-based service
26 alternatives.

27 (3) Encouraging collaboration among persons and entities
28 including, but not limited to, parents, county welfare departments,
29 county mental health departments, county probation departments,
30 county health departments, special education local planning
31 agencies, school districts, and private service providers for the
32 purpose of planning and providing individualized services for
33 children and their birth or substitute families.

34 (4) Ensuring local community participation in the development
35 and implementation of wrap-around services by county placing
36 agencies and service providers.

37 (5) Preserving and using the service resources and expertise of
38 nonprofit providers to develop family-based and community-based
39 service alternatives.

1 SEC. 3. Section 18251 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is
2 amended to read:

3 18251. As used in this chapter:

4 (a) "County" means each county participating in an
5 individualized or "wrap-around" ~~pilot project~~ *services program*.

6 (b) "County placing agency" means a county welfare or
7 probation department, or a county mental health department with
8 respect to those children placed pursuant to Section 7572.5 of the
9 Government Code.

10 (c) "Eligible child" means a child who is any of the following:

11 (1) A child who has been adjudicated as either a dependent or
12 ward of the juvenile court pursuant to Section 300, 601, or 602
13 and who would be placed in a group home licensed by the
14 department at a rate classification level of 10 or higher.

15 (2) A child who would be voluntarily placed in out-of-home
16 care pursuant to Section 7572.5 of the Government Code.

17 (3) A child who is currently, or who would be, placed in a group
18 home licensed by the department at a rate classification level of
19 10 or higher.

20 (d) "Wrap-around services" means community-based
21 intervention services that emphasize the strengths of the child and
22 family and includes the delivery of coordinated, highly
23 individualized unconditional services to address needs and achieve
24 positive outcomes in their lives.

25 (e) "Service allocation slot" means a specified amount of funds
26 available to the county to pay for an individualized intensive
27 wraparound services package for an eligible child. A service
28 allocation slot may be used for more than one child on a successive
29 basis.

30 SEC. 4. Section 18253 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is
31 amended to read:

32 18253. Each county shall ensure that an evaluation of the ~~pilot~~
33 ~~project~~ *wrap-around services program* is conducted to determine
34 the ~~cost~~ *cost-* and treatment effectiveness of outcomes such as
35 family functioning and social performance, preventing placement
36 in more restrictive environments, improving emotional and
37 behavioral adjustments, school attendance, and academic
38 performance for eligible children. Systems of care outcomes shall
39 be included to the extent they are applicable to the target
40 population.

1 SEC. 5. Section 18253.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code
2 is amended to read:

3 18253.5. Each county shall ensure that staff participating in
4 the ~~pilot projects~~ *wrap-around services programs* have completed
5 training provided or approved by the department, on providing
6 individualized wrap-around services.

7 SEC. 6. Section 18254 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is
8 amended to read:

9 18254. (a) Reimbursement rates for ~~wrap-around~~ *wrap-around*
10 *services programs*, under this ~~pilot project chapter~~, shall be based
11 on the following factors:

12 (1) The average cost of rate classification 10 to 11 in each
13 county, minus the cost of any concurrent out-of-home placement,
14 for children who are or would be placed in a rate level 10 or 11
15 group home.

16 (2) The average cost of rate classification 12 to 14 in each
17 county, minus the cost of any concurrent out-of-home placement,
18 for children who are or would be placed in a rate level 12 to 14
19 group home.

20 (b) The annual maximum limit on funding available for the ~~pilot~~
21 ~~project~~ *wrap-around services program* authorized by this chapter
22 shall be based on the average cost, determined pursuant to
23 subdivision (a), for the number of service allocation slots assigned
24 to each county.

25 (c) The department shall reimburse each county, for the purpose
26 of providing intensive ~~wrap-around~~ *wrap-around* services, up to
27 100 percent of the state share of nonfederal funds, to be matched
28 by each county's share of cost as established by law, and to the
29 extent permitted by federal law, up to 100 percent of the federal
30 funds allocated for group home placements of eligible children,
31 at the rate authorized pursuant to subdivision (a).

32 (d) State and, to the extent permitted by federal law, federal
33 foster care funds shall remain with the administrative authority of
34 the county welfare department, which may enter into an interagency
35 agreement to transfer those funds, and shall be used to provide
36 intensive wraparound services.

37 (e) General Fund costs for the provision of benefits to eligible
38 children ~~pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 18251~~, at rates
39 authorized by subdivision (a), through the ~~pilot project~~
40 *wrap-around services program* authorized by this chapter, shall

1 not exceed the costs which would otherwise have been incurred
2 had the eligible children been placed in a group home.

3 SEC. 7. Section 18255 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is
4 amended to read:

5 ~~18255. This pilot project may be extended to any~~ Any county
6 that applies to, and is granted approval, by the department *may*
7 *implement a wrap-around services program*. The number of service
8 allocation slots assigned to each county shall be determined by
9 each county and approved by the department.

10 SEC. 8. Section 18256 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is
11 amended to read:

12 18256. Each county shall evaluate its ~~pilot project~~ *wrap-around*
13 *services program*, prepare ~~interim and final~~ *periodic* evaluations,
14 and submit them to the appropriate committees of the Legislature
15 and to the department. ~~The interim~~ A report shall be submitted not
16 later than six months following the start of the third year of the
17 ~~pilot project~~ *wrap-around services program*. ~~The final~~ A
18 *subsequent* report shall be submitted not later than six months
19 following the end of the ~~five-year pilot project~~ *fifth year of the*
20 *wrap-around services program*. These reports shall assess the
21 effectiveness of the ~~pilot project~~ *wrap-around services program*
22 authorized by this chapter. The reports shall include, but need not
23 be limited to, all of the following:

24 (a) The effectiveness of the ~~project programs~~ in reducing the
25 level of out-of-home services required, and in reducing the average
26 length of stay in out-of-home care.

27 (b) A comparison of the cost of placement and services for
28 children in the ~~pilot project~~ *wrap-around services program* with
29 the average cost of out-of-home placement for the same number
30 of children.

31 (c) The effectiveness of the ~~pilot project~~ *wrap-around services*
32 *program* in assisting children and families in attaining their service
33 goals.

34 SEC. 9. Section 18256.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code
35 is amended to read:

36 18256.5. ~~At the end of a county's pilot project, in~~ In order to
37 prevent disruption to ~~the~~ a child *participating in a wrap-around*
38 *services program, each child remaining in the pilot project any*
39 *county that terminates its wrap-around services program shall*
40 *continue to receive provide to that participating child all planned*

- 1 services specified in the child's individualized services plan until
- 2 his or her case is closed.

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